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The Office Action also requires an election of the following species and sub-species:

Species I: wherein the matrix or substrate is a thermoplastic-ceramic composition;

Species II: wherein the matrix or substrate is a thermoplastic;

Sub-species i: wherein the growth enhancing composition is within the matrix; and

Sub-species ii: wherein the growth enhancing composition is on the surface of the matrix.

In response, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's restriction of the pending claims. Notwithstanding this, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to proceed with the invention of Group III (claims 25-26) drawn to a surgical method and the invention of Group I (claims 1-15) drawn to a biomedical implant, in accordance with the Examiner's remarks that the product claims will be examined along with the elected method claims.

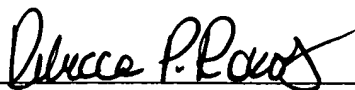
In response to the election of species requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Species II, wherein the matrix or substrate is a thermoplastic composition, and Sub-species ii, wherein the growth enhancing composition is on the surface of the matrix. It is believed that claims 1-8, 11-15 and 25-26 read on this species and sub-species. Upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants reserve the right to submit claims to the additional species and sub-species disclosed in the pending application.

Applicants look forward to receiving an Office Action on the merits. Should the Examiner find that a telephonic or personal interview would expedite passage to issue of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted
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Dated: October 31, 2003

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